

June/July 2006

Volume 3, Issue 4

### **Note from the Consul General**

Dear friends,

*It was wonderful to celebrate the Fourth of July with so many U.S. citizens and friends of the United States. I have to admit it brought a tear to my eye to hear us all join in on the American and Australian national anthems! As you will see, we had the good fortune to be involved with some fantastic events over the last two months. I so enjoyed my trips to the Kimberley and Kalgoorlie — thanks to everyone who helped host and educate me as I learned more about this wonderful state.*

Warm regards, Robin

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CG Opens Dowerin Field Day

# PERTH PERSPECTIVES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL

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## Fourth of July Celebrations

The Honorable Sheila McHale, representing the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition Paul Omodei, and the Consul General toasted the close ties between the United States and Australia at a Fourth of July celebration breakfast on July 4 at the Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club in Peppermint Grove. The Royal Australian Navy Dixie Band entertained the audience of over two hundred Perth guests.



Above Left: Danna Stensgaard, Andrea Chatterji, CG McClellan, James Whittle, and Karen & Nick Moursounidis. Above Right: Professor Sam Makinda with the Hon Julie Bishop. Below Left: The Hon Sheila McHale & LCDR Phil Francois. Below Right: Joan Dowson, Eleanor Bendat, Norma Kay, Jack Bendat, and the Hon Paul Omodei and Ros Omodei. (More photos page 7.)



# U.S. Consul General Visits the Kimberley



**CG McClellan planting a tree at Celebrity Park in Kununurra**



**Sorting out some passport issues in Kununurra**

## Kununurra:

The Consul General's visit to the Kimberley from May 27 to June 3 coincided with a classic car run, in which she and other U.S. visitors took part.

As guest of the Shire President, the Kununurra Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce, CG McClellan planted an Orange Jessamine tree in Celebrity Tree Park. She presented her hosts with three books on life in the U.S. and contemporary art.

At a Save the Children project morning tea at the Kununurra District High School, CG McClellan spoke with parents, children and teachers about the close ties between America and Australia. She also met with U.S. citizens living in the area..



**Parents, children and teachers in Kununurra with CG McClellan**



**Broome:** Bishop Chris Saunders and the director of the Notre Dame University/Broome, Gavin Graves, escorted the CG on a tour of the campus, during which she met with students in the health services program (photo left). The CG also paid her respects at the U.S./Allied War Memorial to the memory of U.S. servicemen and others who were victims of the WWII bombing of Broome in March 1942. Broome RSL

President Peter Blenkinsopp (far left in photo, right) and other RSL members explained the history of the area and the memorial.





## Clean Climate & Development DVC



**CG McClellan with Principal of Murdoch College, Alan Meney and Murdoch students**

Inspired by World Environment Day, the U.S. Consulate hosted on June 6 a digital video conference on Clean Climate & Development.

Dr. Harlan Watson, the State Department's Senior Climate Negotiator, and the Edison Electric Institute's Eric Holdsworth reviewed for more than thirty Australian government officials, business leaders, journalists and students how the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (APP) is engaging large developing countries such as China and India.

The event provided an excellent forum and networking session for individuals interested and involved in the APP, which was established earlier this year in Sydney. Program participants were provided with the opportunity to hear both the government and business perspective and learn about the scale of challenges ahead. A strong focus was placed on the need for the design and development of greenhouse gas mitigation technology. In resources-driven Western Australia, both the state government and the oil and gas and mining companies pay close attention to international and domestic climate initiatives and to developments in clean technology.

Our thanks to the National Native Title Tribunal for making their facility available for this DVC.



**Participants networking at the conclusion of the DVC.**

## U.S. Embassy Economic Resources Officer John Warner Visits Perth



U.S. Embassy Economic Resources Officer John Warner visited Perth June 1—2 to discuss the latest developments in WA's booming resources sector.

John, accompanied by Consulate Perth's Economic Assistant Gina Soos, met with representatives from U.S. oil and gas companies, iron ore producers, and the state government.

John's portfolio includes energy issues throughout Australia, and he always enjoys the chance to get out to Perth.

**Above: Economic Resources Officer John Warner**

## U.S. Visiting Speaker Dr. Robert Sutter

Dr. Robert Sutter, Visiting Professor in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, had a very successful June 12–13 speaking tour in Perth. Dr. Sutter combined his personal and professional experience to deliver a wide-ranging analysis on the strengths of U.S. foreign policy in Asia, with particular focus on the People's Republic of China.

Dr. Sutter commenced his Perth program with a half-hour live interview on the morning of Monday June 12 on ABC radio which has an audience of over 200,000. The general theme of the interview was U.S. policy and prospects in Asia during the George W. Bush administration. Following the ABC interview, Dr. Sutter was interviewed by *The West Australian* on the rise of China and trade and security implications for Australia.



**Dr. Robert Sutter**



**Dr. Robert Sutter and Professor Garry Rodan**

Dr. Sutter was the guest of honor at an informal luncheon with senior academics hosted by the Asia Research Center at Murdoch University.

Following the lunch, Dr. Sutter spoke at an open forum also hosted by the Asia Research Center. The audience was comprised of over 40 senior academics, students, and government representatives for Dr. Sutter's presentation on *Bush and U.S. Foreign Policy in Asia: Implications for the Region*. A question and answer period followed. The forum gave Dr. Sutter the opportunity to present the findings outlined in his study, *"China's Rise: Implications for U.S. Leadership in Asia"* which was recently published in the Policy Studies series by the East-West Center Washington. Dr. Sutter argued that *"overt U.S. competition with China for influence in Asia is unwelcome, counterproductive for U.S. interests, and unwarranted given the limited challenges posed by China's rise."* He asserted that *"Foreign policy makers in the United States should not be misled by prevailing media and scholarly assessments that exaggerate China's influence in Asia relative to that of the United States."* He explained that as China rises in influence in Asia, neighboring governments will hedge and maneuver "against possible Chinese dominance" and they will quietly seek closer ties with each other. Dr. Sutter addressed an audience of 70 members of the Confucius Institute, UWA staff and members of the general public at the University of Western Australia on the same topic.

On June 13, Dr. Sutter spoke to an audience of 65 business leaders, academics, journalists, the general public and Consulate staff at a breakfast speaking engagement hosted by the *Oriental Post* and the Australian American Association. He spoke about the future of U.S. relations in Asia in the context of China's recent rise as a regional power in Asia.



**Dr. Gary Sigley and Dr. Robert Sutter**



**Above: Dr. Sandra Liu and Dr. Robert Sutter**

## “Hoover’s Gold” Goldfields Launch

The Consul General launched the screening of the documentary “Hoover’s Gold” at the Australian Prospectors and Miners Hall of Fame in Kalgoorlie on June 30.

The movie *Hoover’s Gold* documents the experiences of America’s 31st President Herbert Hoover who as a young man helped pioneer the *Sons of Gwalia* gold mine which was one of the richest gold mines in Australia.

President Hoover played a remarkable role in Western Australian history, including the controversy he generated over the employment of predominantly Italian immigrants.

*Hoover’s Gold* depicts an important part of WA’s mining history, providing a uniquely West Australian perspective. The film was screened nationally July 27 on SBS.



**Marian Bartsch (Producer, Mago Productions), Consul General McClellan, and Barry Strickland, the writer and “father” of the documentary Hoover’s Gold, at the launch in Kalgoorlie.**



## Afghanistan Update



The rebuilding process in Afghanistan is not often seen in the media. The U.S., along with many countries, is continuing its commitment to work with Afghanistan’s leaders in developing a flourishing democratic, free market nation respecting human rights. Overall, the U.S. has committed \$(U.S.) 9 Billion for reconstruction.

On October 9, 2004, 8 million Afghans voted in the first democratic presidential election, electing Hamid Karzai from the eighteen candidates. The first democratically elected National Assembly since 1969 was inaugurated on December 19, 2005 after elections in September in which 2,707 candidates competed.

The economy has grown rapidly since the Taliban’s fall in 2001. In 2003 growth was estimated close to 30%. Fuelling the growth are major infrastructure projects. For example, the ambitious 1,200 kilometer Kandahar – Herat Highway is due to be completed this year. The highway project includes building nine other major roads linking 14 provincial capitals to an important trade route. More than 35% of Afghanistan’s population lives within 50kms of the highway route. Over 75% of the workers are local Afghans, with expatriate workers being utilized to train local employees in areas such as use and maintenance of heavy machinery.

USAID has built 477 schools accommodating nearly 300,000 students and 454 health clinics serving more than 340,000 patients per month. By the end of this year, US AID anticipates completing 600 schools and clinics, all high quality earthquake resistant structures. U.S. efforts with the Afghan Ministry of Health have reached over 5.4 million people, with services provided including maternal health, immunization and public nutrition.

As of February 6, 2006, 26,500 Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers have been trained, along with 60,000 police. The US-led coalition is handing over security responsibility in Southern Afghanistan to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force for Afghanistan (ISAF). Forty countries are participating in Operation Enduring Freedom and the



## Deputy Political Counselor John Crowley Visits Perth



Deputy Political Counselor John Crowley

Deputy Political Counselor John Crowley visited Perth and met with various WA State politicians, as well as government and NGO representatives during the last week of June.

John is a career Foreign Service Officer who took up his current duties as Deputy Political Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Canberra on January 30, 2006. Before joining the Foreign Service in 1990, John worked in Southeast Asia for over fifteen years as a refugee resettlement officer with a nongovernmental relief organization, and as a journalist and a Peace Corps Volunteer.

## Historic 45 Star Flag Greets Visitors

Visitors to the U.S. Consulate General are now welcomed by an historic 45 star U.S. flag.

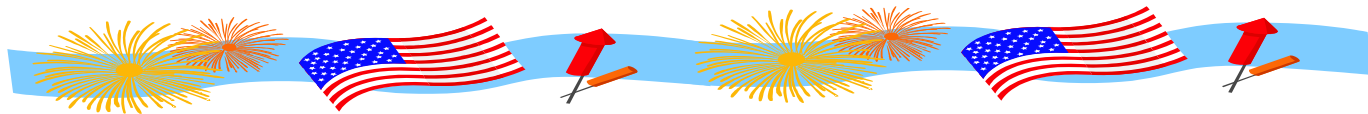
Under the Flag Act of April 4, 1818, a new star is added to the flag for each new state, but the number of stripes remains the same to honor the original thirteen colonies. The change to 45 stars occurred due to the admittance of Utah. The 45 star flag was officially flown from July 4, 1896 until July 3, 1908.

The flag now displayed in the foyer at Consulate General Perth was donated to the Sydney Consulate General in the mid 1980s by a family from the United States. It was restored by International Conservation Services in 2001. The flag traveled to Perth in June. Its installation marks the end of a major phase of renovations at the Consulate General.



For general knowledge enthusiasts, the states not part of the Union at the time of the 45 star flag were Oklahoma (admitted 1908), Arizona (1912), New Mexico (1912), Alaska (1959) and Hawaii (1960). The 45 star flag first flew under the Second Presidency of Grover Cleveland (1893-1897), who has been the only President to serve two non-consecutive terms in office. It continued under the presidency of William McKinley (1897-1901) and Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1909). On July 4, 2007, the current 50 star flag will hold the record for the longest usage, surpassing the previous record of 47 years, held by the 48 star flag.

## Guests at U.S. Consulate's July 4 Celebrations







## More Independence Day Events

### American Women's Club Picnic

The American Women's Club of Perth hosted their annual "Fourth of July" picnic on Sunday, July 2. Over 650 people attended, taking part in many exciting activities., and CG McClellan read the President's Independence Day message at the event. American candy, home baked goodies, American style chili hotdogs, sodas, games, a petting zoo for the children, fairy floss, American "muscle cars" and Harleys were all at the celebrations held at the Nedlands Yacht club. Radio lollipop enter-



tained the children throughout the day. A roaming barbershop quartet ensured the air was filled with the Australian and American anthems. Raffles and auctions were held throughout the day, with all proceeds going to the Royal Flying Doctor Service,

**The Perth Mustang Club displayed vintage cars at the AWC picnic.**

the AWC's chosen charity for 2006.

Don't miss this great event next year!



**Treats for children young and old**

### AmCham Ball

The theme of this year's American Chamber of Commerce Independence Day Ball was "Black and Gold Elegance." The Ball was held in the Government House Ballroom

with over 250 distinguished

guests in attendance. *Steve Armstrong and the Flirtettes* as well as *The Fontaines*

band provided delightful entertainment for the many guests.



**CG McClellan reading the President's Independence Day message**



**Above:**

**AmCham General Manager Penelope Williamson and Tony Borger**



### Australian American Association Breakfast

A jovial crowd of 60 AAA members and friends enjoyed some in-house talent among their own as the AAA celebrated the Fourth of July with a "Wild West Cowboy" breakfast held on Sunday July 9 at the Old Melbourne Hotel. The CG read the President's Independence Day message

**Below: Joan Dowson and Diane Hoffman.**



**Above: Dr. Stella Barrat-Pugh wins prize for best costume.**

**Below : Shirley & Jack Suriano with Richard Adams**





## **STATE DEPARTMENT TRAVEL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC WARNINGS**

Travel warnings and public announcements are available on the Department of State website at <http://www.travel.state.gov> or outside the U.S and Canada call toll free 1-317-472-2328



### **American College & University Information Advising Service**

The American College & University Information  
Advising Service office is located at:  
the University of Western Australia,  
Physics Building, 2nd Floor. Contact Ms. Lee Healy at  
6488-8680

[edadvper@cyllene.uwa.edu.au](mailto:edadvper@cyllene.uwa.edu.au)

For more information, visit:

<http://usembassy-australia.state.gov/education>

### **Online Registration:**

<https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs>

The State Department's secure online travel registration website allows U.S. citizens to record foreign trips and residence information. U.S. citizens around the world who travel or reside abroad can access the IBRS (Internet-Based Registration System) either through a link on: <http://travel.state.gov> or directly at: <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs>. The IBRS will allow both short-trip and long-term travelers abroad to provide their itinerary, residence and emergency contact information. Alternatively, you may complete a printed registration form available from our website at:

<http://perth.usconsulate.gov>

### **CONSULAR SECTION HARD AT WORK**

DURING THE MONTHS JUNE AND JULY, THE  
CONSULAR SECTION OF THE US CONSULATE  
HANDLED THE FOLLOWING:

VISAS: 295, 181

PASSPORTS: 114, 85

BIRTHS: 13, 12

### **ANOUTCHKA'S TRIVIA QUESTION**

Anoutchka Payet, Receptionist for the American Consulate

Q: What famous slogan was originally devised by Patrick O'Keefe for the Society of American Florists?

LAST TRIVIA QUESTION:

Q. What is the only U.S. state which borders with just one other U.S. state?

A. Maine

## Ship Visit Inspired U.S. Air Force Recruit

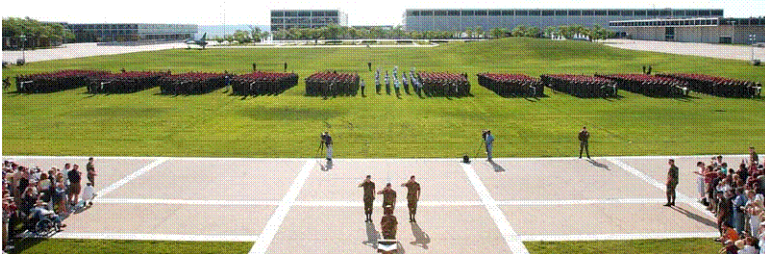
Visiting U.S. Naval vessels often inspire feelings of awe in onlookers. But for one Perth resident, it inspired him to pursue a career in the US military.

When the USS Nimitz (CVN 68) visited Perth between October 7-11 2005, Sean Purio (a US Citizen) was invited to an evening reception aboard the Aircraft Carrier. On board, he spoke with crewmembers and was impressed by the officers and the lifestyle of personnel on the Carrier. Sean's brief talk with Captain Thomas Cropper, the Commander of the Nimitz's Air Wing, sealed his decision and he started researching US military academies.

A keen lacrosse player, Sean eventually decided to apply for the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado after comparing the various military academy lacrosse teams. Sean will complete the intensive six-week basic cadet training course before his acceptance into the Academy on August 8. After four years of study and training, he will commence his career in the U.S. Air Force. CG McClellan and all of the staff at the Consulate General wish him the best of luck in his pursuits.



Sean Purio



The Swearing in Ceremony of the 1,352 cadets of the class of 2010.  
Sean is in there (somewhere!)



The Cadet Chapel at the  
US Air Force Academy

## The Consulate Bids a Fond Farewell to



Simon Hall with CG McClellan

Intern Simon Hall wound up his internship on 13 July, after over seven months at the Consulate General.

While at the Consulate, Simon undertook a wide range of research projects. He also used his impressive organizational skills to monitor an overseas visitor's program in the absence of a consulate staff member, ensuring program details and appointments were confirmed and the program ran effectively. Simon was always willing to volunteer to assist, including at the recent July 4 celebrations.

Simon will now concentrate on his university studies at UWA, where he is completing Honors in International Relations, focusing on the trilateral Australia-United States-Japan relationship. He will then complete two more years at UWA to finish his combined Arts/Law degree.

His time at the Consulate General has spurred Simon to apply for the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs after he completes his degree. He said "it has been an amazing opportunity to be able to participate in the daily work of the Consulate, I've loved every moment. Now I've really got an idea of the workings of a diplomatic office, the different pressures and what is expected. Everyone here are amazing role models and I'll miss working here."

We wish Simon all the best in his future endeavors.





## Commander's Corner



Dear Friends,

In the last few months there have been some incidents throughout the world that have put personal information at risk. One of the incidents found that a data analyst from the VA took home a laptop containing electronic data of millions of veterans. The laptop was stolen during a burglary and the data contained information such as names, dates of birth and social security numbers. The FBI later recovered the missing laptop, and through forensic examination gave a high degree of confidence that the sensitive files were not accessed or compromised. None the less, you should do everything we can to protect yourself from identity theft.



**LCDR Phil Francois**

Some recommendations to are:

- Minimize the number of credit and identification cards that you carry. Secure the rest of your cards in a lockbox at home. Do not carry your social security card with you.
- Pay attention to billing cycles, and follow up with creditors if bills don't arrive on time. Shred credit card receipts, credit applications, insurance forms, and bank statements.
- Do not give personal information or account numbers to anyone until you have confirmed the identity of the person requesting the information and verified that you actually need to share the information.
- Put passwords on your credit card and bank accounts. Avoid using easy to guess information like your mother's maiden name, your birth date, or the last four digits of your social security number.
- Finally, order and examine your credit report at least once a year. By law you are entitled to one free credit report each year. Request a free credit report from one of the three major credit bureaus – Equifax, Experian, TransUnion – at [www.AnnualCreditReport.com](http://www.AnnualCreditReport.com) or by calling 1-877-322-8228.

If you believe you are a victim of identity theft, review the guidelines at <http://www.firstgov/veteransinfo>

*LCDR P.E. Francois, USN*

### U.S./Australia Affinity Groups

Interested in meeting other Americans? Are you an Australian or resident with special ties to the United States? Just want to meet some fun people? One of these groups should fit you to a "T."

**The American Women's Club** (open to women of all nationalities) - AWC President Andrea Chatterji, 9383 2930  
- or [www.AWCPerth.org](http://www.AWCPerth.org)

**American Chamber of Commerce WA** - AmCham WA General Manager Penelope Williamson - 9325 9540

**The Australian American Association** - Membership Coordinator Richard Adams - 9284 6288

**The North American Veterans' Unit** — President Joan Gravelle — 0421 420 498



## Notre Dame Student Orientation

As part of the University's Orientation Week activities, the Consul General addressed 75 newly-arrived American students on Notre Dame's campus in Fremantle on July 24.



In addition to advising students regarding the Consular services available in WA, the Consul General provided insight into the West Australian lifestyle and culture. She encouraged the students to make the effort to meet their fellow Australian classmates and engage with the local community to further enrich their study abroad experience.

The University of Notre Dame Australia accepts a large number of American study abroad students each semester.

## Country Women's Association State Conference



**World President of the Associated Country Women of the World, Dato Ursula Goh and CG McClellan**

The Consul General was a keynote speaker at the Country Women's Association of WA's 82nd State Conference held at the Rendezvous Observation City Hotel on 27 July. The CG spoke to an audience of over 300 on how the U.S. and Australia have so much in common. She spoke of her respect for country men and women and the challenges they

face, and how we both strive to achieve the best outcomes for our children on both sides of the Pacific. She also spoke about the various U.S. exchange programs.



## Hurricane Choir Project

On July 21, CG McClellan met with representatives from Sentiens and the University of WA to discuss the recently completed Hurricane Choir Project. The innovative Perth-based health provider Sentiens, international choral director Martin Meader, and UWA, embarked together on one of the first international uses of an electronic health system for a disaster management project. The research program tracked the benefits to mental health provided by a unique recovery and community support strategy for people affected by Hurricane Katrina.



**Dr. Robin Harvey, Vice Chancellor Alan Robson, CG McClellan, Dr. Dennis Tannenbaum Dr. Sean Hood & Michael Fieldhouse**



## Born on the Fourth of July!



Baby Sabrina Elise Brandimarte was born on the Fourth of July, 2006 at St. John of God Hospital in Murdoch.

The proud parents are American citizen Catherine Brandimarte (nee Saucier) and Vaniglio Brandimarte, shown at left with the Consul General, who enjoyed the chance to hold Sabrina!

## Embassy Health Nurse Visits Perth

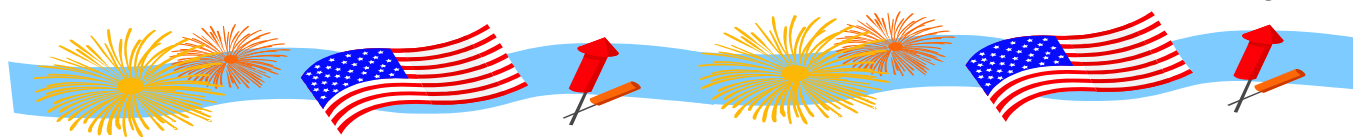
Canberra's Health Nurse, Beth Mahar, visited the Consulate on July 18—19 to conduct emergency response medical training for all Consulate staff. Beth also instructed us in how to use our new emergency defibrillator. Thanks, Beth!

**U.S. Embassy Health Nurse Beth Mahar with  
CG McClellan**



## Press Coverage of the Consulate General During June & July

- June 1** — Coverage in *The Kimberley Echo* and *ABC Regional Radio* of the Consul General's visit to the Kimberley.
- June 4** — Coverage of the visit to the Kimberley in *The Sunday Times' STM Magazine*.
- June 10** — Article in *The West Australian*: "Fremantle a chance for seaswap deal."
- June 12** — *ABC Radio* interview with U.S. Speaker Dr. Robert Sutter.
- June 22** — Coverage in *The West Australian* of Dr. Robert Sutter's view that if China becomes too assertive, it will be pushed back by its neighbors.
- June 23** — Coverage in *The Oriental Post* of Dr. Robert Sutter's breakfast speaking engagement held at the Royal Perth Yacht Club.
- July 3** — Coverage in *The Kalgoorlie Miner* on the CG launching the screening of the documentary *Hoover's Gold* in Kalgoorlie.
- July 4** — *ABC Radio* coverage of the Consulate General's Fourth of July breakfast.
- June 29** — Coverage in *Farm Weekly* on the CG's involvement in the upcoming Dowerin Field Day.
- July 9** — Coverage of the Consulate's Fourth of July breakfast in *The Sunday Times' STM magazine*.
- July 11** — Coverage of the Consulate's Fourth of July breakfast in *The Guardian Express*.



## Upcoming U.S./Australia Affinity Group Events

### American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| August 3   | Maggie Hamilton, Writer, Teacher & Publisher, "What Men Don't Talk About" |
| August 16  | His Excellency Dr. Ken Michael AC, Governor of WA                         |
| August 22  | Andrew Forrest, CEO, Fortescue Metals Group Ltd                           |
| September 27   | Doug Aberle, Managing Director, Western Power                             |
| October 13   | Annual Golf Tournament — Joondalup  |
| Contact: Penelope Williamson at <a href="mailto:wa@amcham.com.au">wa@amcham.com.au</a> |   |

### American Women's Club (AWC)

In addition to AWC's monthly activities of moms and babes, golden girls, quilting, golf, lunch and wine in Swan Valley, Diva Day, and new members' coffee, other activities include:

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| August 27     | City to Surf   |
| September 5   | AWC Founders' Day Lunch  |
| October 7     | 70s Party at Hip-E Club  |
| October 29    | Halloween Festival with Trunk or Treat and Haunted House at the Perth Civic Centre |
| October 20-29 | Volunteering with MS Production of Guys & Dolls at the Regency Theatre             |

Contact: Andrea Chatterji at [president@awcperth.org](mailto:president@awcperth.org)

### Australian American Association (AAA)

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| August 23 | AGM & Cocktail Party  |
| Sept 6—10 | AAA Federal Conference Events Include:  |
| Sept 6    | Pre-conference all day luxury wildflower viewing coach tour to New Norcia and the pinnacles Desert  |
| Sept 7    | Coach tour to Garden Island, Stirling Base.<br>Morning Tea with Commander of Stirling Base.<br>State Reception at Government House              |
| Sept 8    | Civic Reception at Council House  |
| Sept 9    | Multifaith Observance, Devonshire Tea with the Governor and Lord Mayor and formal black tie gala dinner at the Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club. |
| Sept 10   | Boat trip and farewell lunch on the Swan River  |

Contact: Susie Glasfurd at [secretary.aaawa@westnet.com.au](mailto:secretary.aaawa@westnet.com.au)

### North American Veterans' Unit (NAVU)

Contact: Joan Gravelle at [barryg@plummers.com.au](mailto:barryg@plummers.com.au)